NOTICE OF
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE
(DNS)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposal has been determined to have no probable significant adverse impacts on the environment, and that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Written comments on the following DNS may be submitted to the Responsible Official by **May 25, 2010.**

The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158. Our agency will not require any additional mitigation measures under SEPA.

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:

Clark County proposes to expand an existing underground stormwater detention facility in the Salmon Creek watershed. The existing stormwater facility consists of 72" underground storage pipes located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School sports fields immediately west of NE 33rd Avenue. The proposed construction will expand the existing facilities to include two additional 340-foot long, 72-inch diameter, underground storage pipes. Construction activities will include trench excavation for installation of the storage pipes, control manholes, and connection pipes.

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The project is located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School baseball fields at 3000 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington, 98686. The project is located in the SW ¼ of Section 36, T3N, R1E, of the Willamette Meridian, Clark County, Washington.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Kevin J. Gray, P.E., Director
Department of Environmental Services
1300 Franklin Street
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Determination of NONSIGNIFICANCE
DISTRIBUTION LIST

PROJECT:
NE 32nd Avenue Storm Sewer Retrofit
W.O. No. 401947

Notice Date: **May 10, 2010**

Please find enclosed an environmental Determination of Non Significance (DNS) issued pursuant to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules (Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code). The enclosed review comments reflect evaluation of the environmental checklist by the lead agency as required by WAC 197-11-330(1)(a)(i).

Written comments may be submitted on this determination within fifteen (15) days of its issuance, after which the DNS will be reconsidered in light of the comments received.

Please address all correspondence to:

Department of Environmental Services
Kevin Tyler
1300 Franklin Street
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

DISTRIBUTION

Federal Agencies:
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
US Army Corps of Engineers – Seattle District

State Agencies:
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Ecology
Dept. of Natural Resources SW
Department of Transportation
Dept. of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

Regional Agencies:
SW Washington Health District
Fort Vancouver Regional Library
Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation

Local Agencies:
City of Vancouver
Clark Conservation District
Clark Public Utilities – Water
Clark Public Utilities – Electric
Clark Public Utilities – Jeff Whittler
Clark County Board of Commissioners
Clark County Community Development
- Planning Division
- Development Services
- Fire Marshall's Office

Clark County Sheriff's Office
Clark County Department of Environmental Services

Special Purpose:
Clark County Fire Protection District No. 6
Vancouver School District
Fish First
Friends of Curtin Creek (postcard only)
Friends of Clark County
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Salmon Creek Watershed Council
Vancouver Watersheds Council

Other:
The Columbian

Neighborhood & Homeowner Assoc:
Properties within 300' of Project
(postcard only)
NE Hazel Dell Neighborhood Association
Sherwood Neighborhood Association

Special Purpose Agencies:
Clark Regional Wastewater District
Qwest
NW Natural Gas
Comcast Cable Services
Cowlitz Tribe
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the
Yakama Nation

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Description of Proposal:

Clark County proposes to expand an existing underground stormwater detention facility in the Salmon Creek watershed. The existing stormwater facility consists of 72" underground storage pipes located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School sports fields immediately west of NE 33rd Avenue. The proposed construction will expand the existing facilities to include two additional 340-foot long, 72-inch diameter, underground storage pipes. Construction activities will include trench excavation for installation of the storage pipes, control manholes, and connection pipes.

Proponent: Clark County Department of Environmental Services

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The project is located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School baseball fields at 3000 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington, 98686. The project is located in the SW ¼ of Section 36, T3N, R1E, of the Willamette Meridian, Clark County, Washington.

Lead Agency: Clark County Department of Environmental Services, Clark County, Washington

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158. Our agency will not require any additional mitigation measures under SEPA.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below.

Comments must be submitted by **May 25, 2010.**

Responsible Official: Kevin J. Gray, P.E.

Position/title: Director

Address: Department of Environmental Services
1300 Franklin Street
PO Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810

Date: 5-6-10 **Signature:** _____

The staff contact person and telephone number for any questions on this review is Kevin Tyler, (360) 397-2121, extension 4258.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project:

   NE 32nd Avenue Storm Sewer Retrofit

2. Name of applicant:

   Clark County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person.

   Clark County
   1300 Franklin Street
   PO Box 9810
   Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
   Phone: (360) 397-2121
   Contact: Kevin Tyler

4. Date checklist prepared:

   April 26, 2010 & May 5, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist:

   Clark County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

   Construction is planned for summer 2010.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

   In the future, stormwater facilities in the surrounding area could be constructed to divert more storm runoff from the outside basin to this system.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

   No additional environmental information will be prepared for this project.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

   None pending.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

    Clark County Grading Permit

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

Clark County proposes to expand an existing underground stormwater detention facility in the Salmon Creek watershed. No new development is associated with the project.

The existing stormwater facility consists of 72-inch diameter underground storage pipes located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School sports fields immdediately west of NE 33rd Avenue. The proposed construction will expand the existing facilities to include two additional 340-foot long, 72-inch diameter, underground storage pipes. Construction activities will include trench excavation for installation of the storage pipes, control manholes, and connection pipes. Revegetation will follow all construction activities.

12. Location of the proposal.

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The project is located on the north end of the Gaiser Middle School baseball fields at 3000 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington, 98686. The project is located in the SW ¼ of Section 36, T3N, R1E, of the Willamette Meridian, Clark County, Washington.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

The project site is relatively hilly, being located between an existing road embankment and the side slopes of Gaiser Middle Schoool baseball fields. The project transitions eastward into some steeper slopes from remnant landforms and drainage patterns. Elevations range from 208 feet to 224 feet.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Slopes near the easternmost project limits exceed 15%. The steepest slopes are associated with an existing drainage feature. The entire project site slopes from east to west.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Hillsboro Silt Loam (HoB) 3 to 8 percent slopes and Hillsboro Silt Loam (HoC) 8 to 15 percent slopes are the only soil types on the parcel. Hillsboro Silt Loam is generally listed as well-drained, but does often present problems for infiltration of stormwater.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There is no history of unstable soils at the project site. According to Clark County GIS data, the project site is not mapped as a severe erosion hazard or a landslide hazard area.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The project includes approximately 2,500 cubic yards of trench spoils excavation, of which approximately 1,800 cubic yards will be hauled off and disposed of at a fill site to be designated by the contractor and approved by the County Engineer.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

The project site is relatively hilly. There is a potential for erosion during the construction of this project. The contractor will be required to implement an erosion control plan complying with the Clark County Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance (CCC 40.385) during construction.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The project will not add any buildings or asphalt surfaces on the parcel.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

An erosion control plan complying with the Clark County Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance (CCC 40.385) will be implemented during construction. If an NPDES permit is required from the Department of Ecology, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be developed and implemented.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Short-term exhaust emissions and dust generated from construction equipment are expected.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

There are no sources of off-site odor that will affect this project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The contractor will be required to shut off all idle equipment. Construction equipment is required by law to have in place and functional the emission control devices they were equipped with at the time of their manufacture. Also, common construction dust control practices will be addressed in the plans and implemented by the contractor.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

According to Clark County's GIS maps, an unnamed tributary of Salmon Creek is mapped on the northwest side of NE 31st Avenue. The existing stormwater outfall flows into this mapped stream.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described water? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The project will not require work over, in, or adjacent to the previously mentioned water of the state.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground Water:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The site may experience high ground water. Actual ground water elevation is unknown at this time. Any ground water from the proposed trenches will have to be pumped out before pipe installation. A dewatering plan will be established prior to construction. The site is not within a CARA Category II Recharge Area.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Tributary runoff comes from the grassy slopes and Gaiser Middle School sport fields. Runoff will be directed to a temporary drainage ditch on the south side of the excavation trenchs and be rerouted to the existing catch basin downstream of the project area.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Stormwater runoff, potentially including sediment, could enter the existing stormwater system during construction. Standard erosion control measures will be provided to prevent waste materials from entering ground or surface water during construction.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The contractor is required to prepare a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan to be used for the duration of the project. The SPCC plan shall identify construction-planning elements and recognize potential spill sources at the site. The plan shall outline responsive actions in the event of a spill or release and shall identify notification and reporting procedures. The plan shall also outline contractor management elements such as personnel responsibilities, project site security, site inspections, and training.

If an NPDES permit from the Department of Ecology is needed, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be developed and implemented. The plan will detail temporary erosion and sediment control, and stormwater pollution prevention measures.

An erosion control plan complying with the Clark County Stormwater and Erosion Control Ordinance (CCC 480.385) will be implemented during construction.

4. Plants

a. List or circle types of vegetation found on the site.

The site is currently maintained as a transition between baseball fields and neighboring residential homes. The entire project area is mowed grass.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Ground-disturbing activities will not exceed 0.9 acres to construct the new portions of the existing stormwater facility. The stormwater facility retrofit will be constructed underground, so the disturbed area will be returned to existing conditions, a grass field.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

One Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program data point is mapped in the immediate vicinity of the project. Small-flowered trillium (*Trillium parviflorum*), a state sensitive plant species, was last observed in 1993 within the forested riparian zone of the tributary of Salmon Creek mentioned previously. The mapped data point is more than 800 feet from the project footprint. The project will not have an impact on this or any other sensitive plant species.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

Field grass will be temporarily removed during construction and then replaced.

5. Animals

a. List any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

<u>Birds:</u> Considering the location of the project site, songbirds typical of urban landscapes may use the site on a limited basis; however, the site is regularly mowed as part of baseball field maintenance, so habitat is limited.

<u>Mammals:</u> The site can be expected to contain some species of small mammals and rodents typical of urban landscapes.

<u>Fish</u>: This upland site provides no habitat for fish. However, the adjacent tributary stream of Salmon Creek may provide fish habitat downstream of the project area.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Heritage Database data points on the parcel or in the immediate area that would indicate the presence of sensitive or threatened/endangered fish and/or wildlife species.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Clark County is part of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

No trees or shrubs will be removed for this project. Only field grass will be temporarily removed during construction. The stormwater facility will provide more effective stormwater management to Salmon Creek, thus benefiting many aquatic species that inhabit the stream.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

During construction, gasoline, diesel fuel, and lubricating fluids will be required for the operation of the construction equipment. The completed project will not result in an increase in the consumption of vehicle fuels.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None known.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

During construction the contractor will be using fuels and lubricating fluids, and there is the possibility that some of these hazardous fluids could spill or leak.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The emergency services and procedures for any environmental health hazards are already in place through the local fire district and mutual aid agreements with other agencies.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The contractor will be required to prepare a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan to be used for the duration of the project. The SPCC plan shall identify construction-planning elements and recognize potential spill sources at the site. The plan shall outline responsive actions in the event of a spill or release and shall identify notification and reporting procedures. The plan shall also outline contractor management elements such as personnel responsibilities, project site security, site inspections and training.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

There is no noise in the area that will affect the project. Project site is in a residential area with limited traffic.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short-term noise will be generated during construction by heavy machinery.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Short-term construction noise will come from this site during the hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM and will be regulated through the County Public Disturbance Noises Ordinance (Chapter 9.14 Clark County Code). Short-term mitigation measures include the following: restriction in construction hours from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, the shut down of idling equipment, and the maintenance of noise-limiting devices (mufflers) on the construction equipment.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The project site is currently a transition zone between baseball fields and residential homes. Existing stormwater facilities on the site will be expanded.